

**REMARKS**

Claims 1, 3-8, 14-16, 18-22, 24-25, 27 and 29 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 9, 14, 18-20 and 25 are amended and claims 9-13, 17, 23, 26 and 28 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Entry of this amendment is proper under 37 C.F.R. §1.116 because the amendment: (1) places the application in condition for allowance for the reasons set forth below; (2) does not raise any new issues requiring further search and/or consideration; and/or (3) places the application in better form for appeal, should an appeal be necessary. More specifically, the above amendments incorporate allowable subject matter into the independent claims. Thus, no new issues are raised. Entry is therefore proper under 37 C.F.R. §1.116.

Applicant gratefully acknowledges the Office Action's indication that claims 17-19, 23-25 and 28 contain allowable subject matter. By this Amendment, independent claim 1 is amended to include allowable features of dependent claim 28, independent claim 14 is amended to include allowable features of dependent claim 17 and allowable dependent claim 19 is rewritten into independent form. Still further, independent claim 20 is amended to include allowable features of dependent claim 23 and dependent claim 25 is rewritten into independent form. Accordingly, each of independent claims 1, 14, 19, 20 and 25 defines patentable subject matter.

Each of the dependent claims depends from one of the independent claims and therefore defines patentable subject matter at least for this reason. In addition, the dependent claims recite features that further and independently distinguish over the applied references.

Serial No. **09/987,097**  
Reply to Office Action dated July 25, 2006

Docket No. **HI-0050**

### **CONCLUSION**

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance of claims 1, 3-8, 14-16, 18-22, 24-25, 27 and 29 are earnestly solicited. If the Examiner believes that any additional changes would place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this, concurrent and future replies, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 16-0607 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,  
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